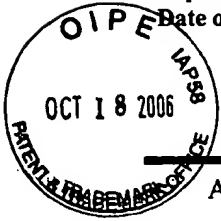


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An Y. Lam  
11/1/06



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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APPLICANTS :	Blackburn, <i>et al.</i>	CONFIRMATION NUMBER :	4288
SERIAL NUMBER :	09/967,321	EXAMINER :	Lam, Ann Y.
FILING DATE :	October 1, 2001	ART UNIT :	1641
FOR :	Methods		

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**MAIL STOP AF**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**  
***Expedited Action under 37 C.F.R. §1.116***

In response to the final Office Action mailed on April 18, 2006 in the above-identified application, Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of this Response under 37 C.F.R. §1.116. A petition for a three month extension of time (up to and including October 18, 2006) and the necessary fee for a small entity are enclosed. If any additional fees are required or if any funds are due, the USPTO is authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account Number: 50-0311, Customer Number: 35437, Reference Number: 27353-501 UTIL.

A Notice of Appeal under 37 C.F.R. §1.191 accompanies this Response.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.